

**Fact Sheet:
U.S.-El Salvador Defense Cooperation**

El Salvador is a key partner of the United States in Central America. Our rich bilateral military relationship is distinguished by cooperation and training programs, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, counter-terrorism, counter-narcotics, and peacekeeping operations.

- **Cooperative Security Location (CSL) Comalapa.** El Salvador is home to the region's only CSL, which is critical for counternarcotics detection and flight monitoring. The Salvadoran Legislative Assembly ratified the CSL agreement in August 2000 and, in 2009, agreed to extend the agreement until 2015. Since that time, CSL operations have been responsible for the interception of over 210 metric tons of cocaine.
- **Foreign Military Financing (FMF).** El Salvador is the second largest recipient of FMF in Central and South America. These funds are used to improve the Salvadoran Navy's interdiction capabilities to participate in joint maritime interdiction efforts through the acquisition of communications equipment, training, and operations and maintenance support.
- **International Military Education and Training (IMET).** IMET funds are used for professional training programs that focus on force modernization efforts, redefining new roles and missions, and enhancing joint capabilities to confront emerging threats. This includes developing El Salvador's civil-military capabilities in areas such as engineering projects, environmental protection, public health assistance, and cooperative efforts in public security. Since 2008, IMET has trained 789 Salvadoran students.
- **Peacekeeping.** With the assistance of the U.S. Government's Global Peace Operations Initiative, El Salvador's military has established a peacekeeping unit. El Salvador has participated in several United Nations (UN) missions and currently deploys over 100 personnel and police to eight different UN missions worldwide, including a contingent of 52 personnel deployed to the UN Interim Force in Lebanon.
- **Coalition Operations.** El Salvador has proven to be a reliable partner. From 2003-2009, El Salvador deployed more than 3,400 soldiers during eleven consecutive troop rotations to Iraq.
- **Bilateral Agreements.** In March 2007, El Salvador approved a long-term Status of Forces Agreement with the United States. In February 2007, El Salvador signed a General Security of Military Information Agreement to facilitate the sharing of classified defense and military information between the United States and El Salvador.
- **U.S.-El Salvador Defense Bilateral Working Group.** Since 2008, DoD and the Salvadoran Ministry of Defense have conducted these annual defense talks. The next session is scheduled for August 2011 in Washington, DC.